



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR



Dear Michigan State Park visitor:

Welcome to Michigan's magnificent state parks and state forests! I hope this guide will serve as a useful tool as you plan your next outdoor adventure here in the Great Lakes state. Information in this guide is also available on the DNR Internet site at www.michigan.gov/dnr. The on-line version of the guide offers everything you'll find on these pages, plus it includes an interactive map to help you find recreation destinations in nearly every corner of the state.

Michigan is blessed with diverse, unique, and bountiful natural resources. Our state is home to 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, 11,000 inland lakes, 3,000 miles of shoreline and the largest state forest system in the nation...all covering two spectacular peninsulas nestled between four of the Great Lakes.

Of particular interest to our Great Lakes shoreline park visitors this year is the recent acquisition of several lighthouses. Through partnerships with federal agencies, we now own nine of these historic beacons on lakes Michigan and Huron. Partnerships with local preservation groups have helped restore them to their original, majestic condition.

Lighthouses represent a homing beacon for local community residents, a symbol of safe passage for boats traveling the waters, and a reminder to everyone of the importance of our Great Lakes fishing and shipping heritage. I recommend visiting any of the restored lighthouses to learn more about their important role in shaping our state.

Whether you enjoy hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, sailing, snowmobiling, picnicking, or bird watching, Michigan offers something for everyone, I have no doubt that all of you – resident and visitor alike – will find a park or forest campground in which to enjoy and appreciate all that Michigan has to offer.

From the Tawas lighthouse to the towering forests of Hartwick Pines, from the historic iron smelting village in Fayette to the thundering falls of Tahquamenon, Michigan's state parks and forests offer an experience like no other in the nation. Each is an opportunity to relax and enjoy our great outdoors, and all offer an opportunity to learn about our state's outdoor heritage. Understanding our history will help make all of us better stewards of our precious natural resources.

No matter which state park or state forest destination you pick this year, you are sure to catch a little bit of Michigan magic once you get there. I hope your family will enjoy your outdoor adventures this year as much as I know my family will. See you in the parks.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor